

example, your footman and Lisette would be your equals were they as rich as you. Being poor, they are obliged to serve you; therefore, you must not add to their misfortune by insulting or by ill treating them. If your situation is preferable to theirs, be thankful to God, without either despising them, or being vain of your better fortune. You must, therefore, treat all your inferiors with affability and good manners, and not speak to them in a surly tone, nor with harsh expression, as if they were of a different species. A good heart never reminds people of their misfortunes, but endeavors to alleviate, or if possible, to make them forget it. I am persuaded you will always act in that manner, otherwise I should not love you as much as I do."¹ Letter CCLXXXIV, "The trade of a courtier is as much a trade as that of a shoemaker; and he who applies himself the most, will work the best; the only difficulty is to distinguish between the right and proper qualifications and their kindred faults; for there is but a line between every perfection and its neighboring imperfection. As, for example, you must be extremely well-bred and polite, but without the troublesome forms and stiffness of ceremony. You must be frank, but without indiscretion, and close, without being costive. You must keep up dignity of character, without the least pride of birth or rank. You must be gay within all the bounds of decency and respect; and grave without the affection of wisdom, which does not become the age of twenty. You must be essentially secret, without being dark and mysterious. You must be firm and

1. Chesterfield's Letters to His Son, P 33, Letter XXXVI.